

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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To the Chairman & Members of  
the Midsomer Norton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1925, drawn up in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health.

NATURAL and SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA OF DISTRICT:-

3970 Acres. The district includes the four Ecclesiastic Parishes of Midsomer Norton, Downside, Cladown and Westfields.

POPULATION :-

In 1921 the population was 7840. The estimated population for 1925 as issued by the Registrar General was 8164.

PHYSICAL FEATURES & GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA :-

The elevation of the area built on ranges from 300 to 700 ft. The geological formations underlying the district are Lias and Dolomitic conglomerate rocks. Much of the low lying ground consists of beds of red coloured brick clay. The Total Annual rainfall registered at Midsomer Norton at an Altitude of 350 ft. was 40.59 ins.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES :-

In 1921, 1836.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS :-

In 1921, not known. The correct figures are not available for 1925.

NATURAL VALUE & SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE :-

£ 22,450 and £ 92. 10. 10.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS:-

The chief occupations are, coal mining, manufacture of boots and shoes, and agriculture. Taken as a whole the population of the district is cleanly, abstemious and musical. Considerable unemployment and distress has been experienced since the War owing to the shortage of work in the boot factories, and also in the coal pits. One mine has been closed down in the neighbourhood.

VITAL STATISTICS :-

BIRTHS :-

The number of births registered during the year 1925 was 148, 67 boys and 81 girls, giving a birth rate of 18.12 per 1000 inhabitants. The number of births and the birth rate for the preceeding four years were :-

	Total	boys	girls	rate
1924	135	72	63	16.77
1923	159	89	70	20.4
1922	124	71	53	15.71
1921	189	83	95	24.1

The birth rate has been on the decline since 1900 when the birth rate was 31.1 per 1000 inhabitants.



# DEATHS :-

The number of deaths registered during the year was 80, 41 Males and 39 females, giving a death rate of 9.79 per 1000 inhabitants. The death rate in the preceeding four years was

1924, 9.81; 1923, 9.11; 1922, 9.76; 1921, 9.69  
The doath rate in 1900 was 13.1, and the average for the preceeding 10 years 13.5.

# INFANT MARTALITY:-

The infant mortality rate for 1925 was 40.5 per 1000 births, and for the preceeding four years

1924, 66.66; 1923, 24.22; 1922, 64.51; 1921, 58.2.

The infant mortality rate in 1900 was 88.8, and the average for the preceeding seven years 112.6, practically three times that of 1925.

# THE CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1925 WERE AS FOLLOWS :-

	MALE	FEMALES.
Measles	2	1
Influenza	3	1
Encephalitis)		
Lethargica	-	2
Tuberculosis)		
Pulmonary	2	1
Other Tuberculosis	-	2
Cancer	5	1
Cerebral Hoomorrhage	2	6
Heart Disease	2	4
Arterio Sclerosis	2	3
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	2	4
Other respiratory )		
diseases	-	1
Diarrhoea under )		
2 years	1	-
Appendicitis	-	1
Nephritis	3	1
Puerperal diseases)		
or accident	-	1
Congenital Debility)		
or premature birth)	1	1
Death from Violence	5	1
Other Defind causes	8	6
	41	39 Total 80.

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1925 :-

Diseases	Total Notified	Cases admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Small pox	---	---	---
Scarlet Fever	23	10	---
Diphtheria	3	---	---
Enteric Fever	---	---	---
Puerperal Fever	---	---	---
Pneumonia	23	---	8
Erysipilas	6	---	---
Enciphalitis)			
Lethargica	4	---	2
Anterior			
Poliomyelitis)	---	---	---
TOTAL	55	10	10



No Case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year 1925.

## T U B E R C U L O S I S    1925.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 12 months	---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year to 5 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 years to 10 "	---	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 years to 15 "	2	1	-	-	---	-	-	-
15 years to 20 "	---	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
20 years to 25 "	---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 years to 30 "	---	---	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 years to 35 "	---	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
35 years to 40 "	---	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
40 years to 45 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 years to 55 "	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 years to 65 "	---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years & upwards.	---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	5	-	2	2	2	-	2

### MEASLES :-

During the first quarter and the early part of the second quarter of the year, Influenza, Measles, Mumps, and Chicken pox were prevalent throughout the district, and the C.E. School at Westfields had to be closed owing to the greatly diminished attendance. The same School was closed on account of a measles epidemic during the last quarter of the year.

### LOCAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:-

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority, or by the County Council.

1. Tuberculosis - none in this district.
2. Maternity - none in this district.
3. Children - none in this district.

There is a private approved home for mentally defective children at Norton House.

4. FEVER:- The Local Authority rents on lease a semi-detached Cottage situated on Welton Hill. This has been used as a temporary Isolation Hospital for over 30 Years for cases of infectious disease. Trained Nurses are obtained either from Bath or Bristol. The proposed erection of a joint Hospital for this and the adjoining districts has been under consideration for many years. Although some nine months ago we were informed by the Ministry of Health that this matter would have immediate attention, there is at the present time no sign of the building, and we can only suppose the matter is still being carefully considered.

5. SMALL POX - No permanent building exists, wood huts can be erected within a few hours when required.



#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES .

One MotorAmbulance is available in the district and is used for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

#### CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

None are provided in this district.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

1. Medical Officer of Health part time.
1. Sanitary Inspector part time.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING AT THE HOME.

(a) General - no nurses are provided by the Local Authority.

(b) For infectious diseases.

No nurses are provided by the Local Authority except for the Isolation Hospital.

The Midsomer Norton Nursing Association, affiliated with the County Nursing Association provides two nurses, one for general district work, the second for midwifery, a third nurse is provided for the Downside district by a separate association.

There are three Midwives working in this area.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA :-

##### WATER.

Constant Service, the supply comes from three sources-

1. Downside (Gurney Slade Spring)
2. Radstock town Supply.
3. Chilcompton Spring.

The last named supply after heavy rain is liable to become cloudy, which shows that surface water from some unknown source gains admission and may be a matter of danger.

##### STREAMS.

The Wolton Stream is not altogether free from pollution. The drainage of a number of houses situated in an adjoining parish enters the stream some of a mile above the intake of the Midsomer Norton bathing place.

#### DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE :-

Sewage is mainly disposed of by water-carriage, the sewage is treated at the Midsomer Norton Council works, and the Radstock works. Earth Closets and pails are in use in outlying localities. Only a small percentage of the privies are fitted with flushing tanks.

#### SCAVENGING :-

Household refuse has been systematically removed by the Local Authority since 1911, at Midsomer Norton, Wolton, Clandown and Downside. Since the Council adopted this Method of disposal, the insanitary heaps of rubbish as frequently met with before that date are now seldom seen.

Appended is the Sanitary Inspectors report for the Year 1925.

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

Arthur Bulleid

M.O.H.

26th. March 1926.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

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To the Chairman & Members of the  
Urban District Council of Wislimer Norton.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report  
for the Year ended 31st December 1925.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT VISITS.

The total number of inspections made during the year in all class of Sanitary work were 297 all complaints of nuisances have been investigated, 4 informal notices were served for amendments to Sanitary accommodation which were properly affected and in other cases abatement has been affected on a verbal request to the Owner, as in former Years nuisances arising from choked and defective drainage, the work has been undertaken by the Council's workmen and 36 cases have been dealt with during the Year.

The drainage to 31 new houses has been examined and approved. of these 26 are connected to the Sewerage system and 5 to Casspools new Sanitary arrangements have been provided to one of the Licenced houses during the Year.

Inspections have been made to the Cinema in High Street under the Ministry of Health Circular August 5th 1920.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 6 Fish Friers in the Urban District inspections have been made during the year, no complaints of nuisance have been received as arising from this trade.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 36 Workshops and Factories on the Register. Inspections have been made throughout the year, and notices received from the Factory Inspector have been investigated and amendment affected as required. There are 5 Bake-houses on the Register which have been limewashed in accordance with the requirements of the Factory and Workshops Act. There are no outworkers in the Urban District.

## HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS.

Inspections have been made in Company with the Medical Officer of Health. Under the Scheme adopted by the Council for the erection of Houses by Private Enterprise under Government Subsidy 29 Houses have been completed during the Year, 54 visits of inspection have been made during their erection. Complaints of overcrowding have again been received and investigated but lack of housing accommodation has made it impossible to deal with them, shortage of houses still make it impossible to recommend the closing of unfit dwellings.



## H O U S I N G.

Number of new Houses erected during the Year :-

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)). 31.
- (b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts:-
  - (1) By the Local Authority 0
  - (ii) By other Bodies or persons. 29

## UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

- Inspection -- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 120
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing consolidated Regulations 1925. 120
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 1.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 22.

## 2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers. 2.

## 3 ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

### A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 0
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were ~~rendered~~ fit after service of formal notices :-
  - (a) By Owners 0
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. 0
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close. 0

### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 2
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
  - (a) By Owners 2
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. 0

### C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.



(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	1.
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.	1.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	0

#### DAIRIES COWSHEDS and MILLSHOPS.

There are now on the Register :-

(a) Producers	38
(b) Distributors	4
(1) Distributors who are also producers	16
(11) Distributors only	4
(c) The Register is complete	
(d) No Licences have been granted to distributors to sell pasturised graded or certified milk.	
(e) No action has been taken as to tuberculosis milk and tuberculosis cattle.	

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 4 Slaughter Houses in the Urban District all have been regularly inspected and found in clean condition.

#### MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspections of meat have been carried out during hours of slaughtering immediately afterwards. The meat killed in the Urban District being generally of very good quality, it has not been found necessary to make any seizures. The carcass of one bullock badly affected with tuberculosis was voluntarily surrendered by the Butcher.

There are 8 Butchers shops in the Urban District one of which deals in frozen meat only.

Your Sanitary Inspector attended the course of Lectures arranged by the County Council for Sanitary Officers in the fall of the Year, which were exceptionally educational in the highest degree and will be very helpful to the Sanitary Inspectors of the various local Authorities in the County in carrying out their duties under the Public Health Regulations 1924.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
C.H. Sunderland  
Associate Royal Sanitary Institute.

